"I heard it through the Grapevine "

The Software Center sends periodic informational messages which are intended to provide heads-up/real time information to Software Professionals throughout the Command. These "information messages" are not intended to by-pass or replace the formal communication process <u>or</u> to task any DCMD or CAO activity. Forwarding of this e-mail within the DCMC Software Professional community and to other interested DCMC employees is encouraged.

Your feedback is appreciated.

1. **OSD Policy Letters:**
   The last Grapevine (99-6) forwarded a 26 Oct 99 DoD Policy letter concerning contractor process maturity levels. Specifically, it requires those contractors desiring work on DoD Acquisition Category I Programs to be at an SEI Level III CMM Maturity Level (or equivalent). There is a further caveat that those who do not meet this requirement can still be considered if they have a risk reduction plan which is approved by the program manager. Since that time, a second letter from DUSD (S&T) dated 2 Nov 99 begins implementation of that policy (26 Oct 99 letter) by requesting the services to identify equivalent tools [to perform process evaluations].

   At the end of the 2 Nov 99 letter is the sentence "In addition, I request your assistance in defining a single recommended evaluation technique so these tools will provide consistent results and will not burden our contractor community with multiple evaluation types."

   We in DCMC have the CMM Based Insight initiative which, when fully implemented, will accomplish just this - that was our concept. Our CAOs will have the process evaluation data as a result of our daily efforts. While we do not begin CMM Based Insight Command wide until next July, and it will take almost another year to fully collect the data, I would not be surprised if our CBI initiative is, or is a large part of, the answer to the DoD concern.   The issue raised (consistent evaluation throughout DoD) has been around for years. It is not easy to resolve or it would have already been done. It will take us some time to be fully operational but the bottom line is we are headed in the right direction with the implementation plan to bring the DoD issue to closure. There is no direct

CAO action at this time - we are in the pilot validation stage (re: http://www.dcmc.hq.dla.mil/onebook/4.04/4.3/dc99-254.htm)

For a copy of the policy letters, refer to the center web site under "Worth Knowing" http://www.dcmc.hq.dla.mil/dcmc_o/ob/swctr/news.htm

For additional information on CMM Based Insight, refer to the center web site under "Initiatives". http://www.dcmc.hq.dla.mil/dcmc_o/ob/swctr/initiati.htm The information currently listed is an overview. We will be supplementing this with more information on the methodology, pilot sites, and schedules in the near future. Point of Contact: Dave Zentner; 617-753-3354

2. **DUSD (S&T) Point of Contact; Mr. Jack Ferguson:**
Mr. Ferguson came aboard Dr. Etter's staff last month to lead the DoD software improvement efforts (such as implementation of the policy letters in paragraph 1). Mr. Ferguson comes into the Department of Defense from the Software Engineering Institute. He is in the Senior Executive Service. I, along with Becky Grant (HQ) and Guy Mercurio (SW Center), met with him at his request on 9 November. He expressed his desire to take full advantage of DCMC in-plant capability to resolve the issue of process evaluation consistency (re: Para 1).

3. **CMM Based Insight vs Software Performance Maturity Model:**
Capability Maturity Model Based Insight should not be confused with the Software Performance Maturity Model. The Software Performance Maturity Model is an internal model that assesses DCMC's Software CAS performance. Capability Maturity Model Based Insight assesses the Contractor's process performance and capability against an industry recognized standard. For additional details, http://www/dcmc.hq.dla.mil/dcmc_o/ob/swctr/initiati.htm

4. **DCMC - Australian Software Exchange Position:**
We provided a heads up to this possibility in an earlier Grapevine. The Australians were seeking an individual knowledgeable in Software CAS, especially in software capability evaluations. Duty station down under would be Canberra (Australian Capital) with the Australian Defence Acquisition Organisation. The original target date was Fall 99. Authorization for the position has been slow - it is passed through DCMC and in coordination at the OSD General Council. This effort and the nominations will be handled by HQ DCMC. We'll give an update in the Grapevine when there is any additional news. Point of Contact: Becky Grant; 703-767-7339

5. **DCMC Software Center Position:**
With the departure of Jamileh Soudah (Who accepted a program manager position with Defense Information Security Agency), we will be filling a GS 334 13/14 vacancy. I expect the position announcement to be out within the month. Primary duties of this individual will be CMM Based Surveillance. The knowledge, skills and abilities will be thus focused on the CMM and Software

Capability Evaluations. The position involves heavy travel (as with any position at the center). The above is provided just as a heads up - please read the announcement when advertised. Point of Contact: Lt Col Lang; 617-753-3739

6. **Command Level Metrics:**

As you are aware, the previous command level metric dealt with the percentage of comments accepted by program offices. While it was focused in the right direction, the value of the data was questionable and the metric was terminated. This left a void in determining DCMC value to program offices. We briefed Ms. Pettibone on two metrics on 9 Nov; one for internal improvement and the other concerning customer satisfaction via our DCMC Customer Liaison Representatives. While Ms. Pettibone saw value and encouraged these efforts, she saw them as less than adequate to measure command wide software CAS performance. The current concept (Similar to workshop 1 at the software symposium), is to track high risk programs which have software cost and schedule variances. We would not track DCMC comments or time allocation (as proposed at workshop 1 at the symposium) but would correlate DCMC efforts to program progress. HQ will be developing the concept and data collections with the district staffs and software center. Point of Contact: Becky Grant; 703-767-7339

7. **DCMC Software CAS Guidebook:**

A suggestion at the conclusion of our 1999 Software Symposium (Pete Johnson, DCMC Twin Cities) was to capture best practices, lessons learned, and examples. We begun work on a guidebook to do just that.   We've enlisted the support of CAO personnel (who volunteered at the conference) to help create a draft. The expected completion date of the draft version of the guidebook is 31 Jan 00. The draft guidebook will be posted on the web to solicit field wide comments and suggestions before proceeding to the final. Your feedback at that point is crucial. As a result of the various initiatives on going (CBI, Software Performance Reviews, Measurement, SPDP revision, DoD Policy, etc) updates will be made as needed. The scheduled formal release date for the guidebook is July 00. Point of contact: Guy Mercurio; 617-753-4122

8. **DCMC Year 2000 Software Symposium:**

Funds have been authorized for a symposium this year. Funding is always tight - I believe we had a high quality, high value symposium last September and year 2000 funds were authorized because field comments (your critique sheets) reflected this. The dates and location are currently TBD. We are shooting for the week of 5 Jun but are still working out arrangements with the conference facility. Travel will be centrally funded with the districts allocating CAO slots. The Symposium is included on the software center web page http://www.dcmc.hq.dla.mil/dcmc_o/ob/swctr/news.htm and will be updated as we finalize. Point of contact: Gary Gumpright; 617-753-4130

9. DCMC Software Performance Reviews:
   Performance reviews at CAOs have begun. All reviews will be complete by Mar 00. Feedback from CAO Commanders and management have been positive. Results from these reviews will be analyzed and posted on the software center web page in May. Point of contact: Gary Gumpright; 617-753-4130

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